



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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April 27, 2005

NEWS SUMMARY:

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that a federal jury convicted Leslie John Hamilton, Jr., 53, dob 12/4/51, formerly of Sheboygan, Wisconsin and Mt. Charleston, Nevada, of 21 counts of mail fraud and 7 counts of wire fraud in connection with a coin and currency investment scheme that he devised and implemented between 1997 and 2003.

Hamilton, who also used the name John Halvorson, persuaded investors to turn over millions of dollars on the promise that the money would be used to purchase ungraded coins and currency which would then be graded by a professional numismatic grading house and sold for a substantial profit. Hundreds of investors, including some 300 from Wisconsin invested money only to learn that Hamilton's investment program was a classic Ponzi scheme, and that their money had been used to pay earlier investors and to support Hamilton's lavish lifestyle which included a home in an upscale Nevada community and frequent trips to the high stakes rooms at numerous Las Vegas casinos.

Prosecutors estimate the out of pocket losses to exceed 12 million dollars.

Hamilton's co-defendant, Angelina Roebuck, 53, dob 1/7/52, also formerly of Sheboygan, Wisconsin and Mt. Charleston, Nevada pled guilty to one count of mail fraud on April 13, 2005, days before the start of the trial.

Hamilton, who was remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal, will be sentenced by United States District Court Judge J.P. Stadtmueller on July 15, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. He faces up to 20 years and a \$250,000 fine as to each count. The sentencing for Roebuck, who faces up to 20 years and a \$250,000 fine on the single mail fraud count, has not been scheduled.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Carol L. Kraft and Mel S. Johnson. It was investigated by the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, Division of Securities and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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